

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00208 241930Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-02 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-02
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /168 W
-----122510 252348Z /64

R 241546Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4525

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0208

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PLOS, BB, XL

SUBJ: CARIBBEAN LOS MEETING URGED TO COORDINATE CONFERENCE
POSITIONS

1. CIVIL SERVANTS FROM TRINIDAD/TOBAGO, JAMAICA, GUYANA, THE
WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES SECRETARIAT AND THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY (CARICOM) SECRETARIAT WERE URGED IN BARBADOS
JANUARY 18 & 19 TO COORDINATE THE POSITIONS OF COUNTRIES OF THE
COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN IN LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS SO AS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WITH MAXIMUM BENEFITS
FOR THE REGION. BARBADOS' ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY FORDE TOLD
THE PARTICIPANTS IN A CARICOM-SPONSORED LAW OF THE SEA SEMINAR
IN BARBADOS THAT THE GOB FELT THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN HAS A
COMMON INTEREST IN LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS THAT IS BEST PURSUED
BY REGIONAL COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION. FORDE, WHO OPENED
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THE SEMINAR, SAID THAT REGIONAL COUNTRIES MUST HAVE PATIENCE AND
UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHERS' POSITIONS AND DIFFICULTIES IN

PREPARING AND COORDINATING POSITIONS FOR THE MARCH LOS TALKS
IN GENEVA.

2. THE CIVIL SERVANTS DISCUSSED AND TRADED INFORMATION

ON A NUMBER OF LOS AND RELATED TOPICS, INCLUDING SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE RAISED IN GENEVA; LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR EXTENSION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN; POSSIBLE FISHING ARRANGEMENTS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY NEW LEGAL LIMITS AND ECONOMIC ZONES; AND POLLUTION PREVENTION ARRANGEMENTS. MOST DELEGATES APPEARED TO BE FROM LEGAL DEPARTMENTS OF GOVT RATHER THAN FROM POLICY-MAKING BODIES.

3. FORDE ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS WELCOMING SPEECH TO ANNOUNCE THAT BARBADOS WOULD QUOTE DO ALL IN ITS POWER UNQUOTE TO ENSURE THAT JAMAICA IS SELECTED AS THE SITE FOR THE PROPOSED SEABED AUTHORITY AS STATED IN THE INFORMAL COMPOSITE NEGOTIATING TEXT.

4. THE BARBADOS PARLIAMENT WILL TAKE FINAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION JANUARY 24 ON ESTABLISHING A 12-MILE LIMIT AND 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. LEGISLATION AS FINALLY APPROVED WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPT. ORTIZ.

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